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A GUIDE TO THE GREATER FORT MYERS BUSINESS INDUSTRY

KnowledgePoints gives students extra boost

BY MICHELLE L. START

Florida Weekly Correspondent

Just a month after classes resumed throughout Lee County, KnowledgePoints is already seeing students that need a little extra help.

"Right now, we're at our lowest for a long, long time," said Sandra Bubliss, director. "We have about 13 coming right now, but when the first report cards or interim reports come out, we'll start getting all of the calls."

The first quarter ends on Oct. 25.

The tutoring center is open Monday to Thursday and serves children in grades pre-kindergarten to twelve.

"I attend IEP (individualized educational plan) meetings," said Bubliss about the children enrolled in tutoring programs. "We take their recommendations and if feasible, we put them into practice."

While most tutoring sessions involve three students for every teacher, Bubliss said those that need additional help can also have individualized sessions.

When the center first opened on College Parkway in 2005, most of the students were in elementary school. Now, they serve a broader range.

"During the summer, we saw more of the older children," said owner Susie Golubock.

KnowledgePoints ran a 2 1/2 hour a day summer camp while children were off school.

"They made tremendous gains," said Bubliss. "We also have enrichment programs."

The women said KnowledgePoints sees substantial success because they have a large number of materials that provide an instructional depth.

Each of the teachers at the learning center is state certified and all but one still works full-time in the school system. In order to work for KnowledgePoints, they must undergo an intense 12-week training program.

It is one of the reasons why Golubock decided to franchise with KnowledgePoints when she decided to open up a



Tutor Doreen Benton helps Madaline Marrero, 9, with school work.

PHOTOS MICHELLE START

COURTESY PHOTO
KnowledgePoints owner Susie Golubock.

tutoring business.

"I was very impressed with the curriculum and thought very highly of the whole program," she said. "They give us

COURTESY PHOTO
Sandra Bubliss, director of KnowledgePoints.

a lot of support, but the curriculum was a real driving point for me. I love the program and I know it works."

When parents sign their children up,

KnowledgePoints conducts a comprehensive assessment to gauge a child's strengths and weaknesses.

"The program is very good in economy," said Bubliss. "We save the child time and the parents money. We only focus on the skills that are needed."

KnowledgePoints has enough material that tutors don't move on to the next skill until mastery is achieved.

"They have to give us five mastery sets in each skill and at each level," said Bubliss. "Until they can do that, I just keep reassigning new material. I have six different textbooks that I can use. That's a real bonus. If we can just get people to see that we have so much more to offer them, even if the child has trouble catching on. There are 25 lessons in each book and in each skill and at each level. Parents need to know what we can do to help them and to keep their child from struggling further."

Students also receive tickets as incentive to work on skills. They can use the tickets to purchase items in the learning center's store or they can save them up before exchanging them for a gift certificate to their store of choice.

There is also a foosball game that they are able to play either before or after a session. Golubock said as children begin to comprehend and their skill sets improve, their entire attitude changes.

"When they see success, we see a positive attitude and that's what we are all about, making children successful and independent," she said. ■

KnowledgePoints Learning Center8140 College Parkway, Suite 108
Fort Myers>>Prices: Initial diagnostic assessment:
\$150

>>Tutoring services: \$43 an hour

Bonita Bay magazine earns Charlie Award

IN Good Company, Bonita Bay Group's new lifestyle magazine, has won the Charlie Award, the Florida Magazine Association's highest honor. The premier issue, which debuted in February, earned first-place honors in the custom magazine category.

IN Good Company celebrates life, friends and nature in Southwest Florida and Bonita Bay Group's master-planned communities and is published as a partnership between Gulfshore Life magazine and Bonita Bay Group.

"The Charlie Award is a highly competitive contest that commemorates the best of the best in Florida magazine publishing," said Lynne Groth, publisher of Gulfshore Life. "It is quite an honor to win the Charlie with just one issue."

IN Good Company has a circulation

of 25,000 and is mailed to residents and prospective residents. It is also available at community sales centers and clubhouses, at local businesses and physicians' offices, and is sold at major bookstores. The magazine has also been recognized by the Florida Public Relations Association, receiving the Golden Image Award of Distinction in August.

IN Good Company is published twice annually and showcases the unique Southwest Florida lifestyle through photo essays, resident profiles and community events and activities. The second issue is available on newsstands now.

The Florida Magazine Association is the largest state magazine association in the country and sponsors the annual Charlie Awards to honor publishing excellence in Florida. ■

Bar Louie opens in Edison Mall

COURTESY PHOTO

Ray Partlow, manager of Bar Louie at Edison Mall

Ray Partlow has been named general manager of Bar Louie at Edison Mall. The Columbus, Ohio, native, who managed a Bar Louie in Ohio for the past three years, says he is happy to bring the fun of the Cheers-style bar/eatery to Fort Myers.

"Bar Louie is one of the few places in the area offering a full bar with great late-night (until 2 a.m.) food," said Partlow. More than 40 draft beers and 30 specialty drinks are available as well as a large menu ranging from appetizers, salads and overstuffed Chicago sandwiches to full dinners.

Patrons can enjoy the NFL package shown on 10 large-screen TVs. Every Tuesday \$1 Black Angus burgers are served from 5 p.m. to closing, and there is liberal weekday happy hour with buy one, get one free appetizers. Partlow says Bar Louie customers can soon look forward to ladies' and bikers' nights as well as other seasonal events.

Bar Louie is located at Edison Mall (4125 Cleveland Avenue, suite 1100A) adjacent to the food court on the west side of the mall. It is open from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. All menu items are available for carry out. ■